

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. These sheets, which include Figs. 2-6, replace the original sheets including Figs. 3-6. In Figure 2, the upper most line has been removed to prevent confusion. In Figure 3, the orientation of the reaction beam 52 has been amended to extend horizontally so that it is now consistent with the specification and associated Figures. Additionally, the section line labels "A" in Figure 3 have been changed to "4" as suggested by the Examiner. In Figure 4, previously omitted element "10" has been added and the upper occurrence of element "58" has been changed to "88." In Figure 5, previously omitted element "110" has been added and the upper occurrence of element "158" has been changed to "138." In Figure 6, previously omitted elements "210" and "244" have been added and the upper occurrence of element "258" has been changed to "238." Additionally, in Figures 4, 5, and 6, the lengths 49, 49a, 149, 149a, 249, and 249a have been amended to conform to the paragraphs beginning at page 15, line 14, page 17, line 13, and page 20, line 6 of the description. Furthermore, the inflated state of the airbags 42, 142, and 242 has been amended to be logically consistent with the uninflated state of the airbags 42, 142, and 242.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets  
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed July 22, 2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings, specification, and claims 21, 22, 27, 28, 37, 38, 44, 47-49, 53, 60, 61, and 63. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-63 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In the Office Action, claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 18, 20-22, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Research Disclosure No. 37513 (hereinafter "RD"). The remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in different combinations with United States Patent No. 5,382,051 to Glance (hereinafter "Glance"), United States Patent No. 6,460,873 to Lebaudy et al. (hereinafter "Lebaudy"), EP 885,785 to Dancasius et al. (hereinafter "Dancasius"), United States Patent No. 6,378,896 to Sakakida et al. (hereinafter "Sakakida"), United States Patent No. 6,203,057 to Spencer et al. (hereinafter "Spencer"), United States Patent No. 5,615,914 to Galbraith et al. (hereinafter "Galbraith"), United States Patent No. 6,086,091 to Heinz et al. (hereinafter "Heinz"), and United States Patent No. 5,072,966 to Nishitake et al. (hereinafter "Nishitake").

By this paper, claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26-28, 30, 37, 38, 40, 42-44, 47-49, 52, 53, 55, and 60-63 have been amended. New claims 64-70 have been added. Support for these amendments may be found in the Figures and the specification. In particular, support for the amendment of claims 1 and 52 and new claims 64-67 and 69-70 may be found in paragraph [0037] of the published application. Claims 13, 15, 16, 23, 25, 34, 39, 41 and 56 have been canceled. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, immediate allowance of claims 1-12, 14, 17-22, 24, 26-33, 35-38, 40, 42-55, and 57-70 is respectfully requested.

#### **Objection of Drawings and Specification**

In paragraphs 1-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and specification. Referring to paragraph 1 of the Office Action, omitted elements "110," "210," and "244" have been added to the Figures. Referring to paragraph 2, the description has been amended to include elements "149" and "249." Referring to paragraph 3, figures 3, 4, 5, and 6 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Referring to paragraph 4, claims 23, 25, 39, and 41 have been canceled. Additionally, Figures 4-6 have been amended so that the lengths 49, 49a, 149, 149a, 249, and 249a are consistent with the main structure shown in the Figures, the description at pages 15, line 17, page 17, line 16, and page 20, line 9, and claims 24 and 40. Claims 43 and 55 have been amended so that every feature of the claims is shown in the drawings.

Referring to paragraph 6, the specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. The Figures 4-6 have also been amended to conform to the description at page 15, line 17, page 17, line 16, and page 20, line 9 and to be more logically consistent with the uninflated configuration shown in Figures 4-6.

In view of these amendments to the Figures and specification, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Objection of Claims 21, 22, 27, 28, 37, 38, 44, 47-49, 53, 60, 61, and 63

In the Office Action, the Examiner also objected to claims 21, 22, 27, 28, 37, 38, 44, 47-49, 53, 60, 61, and 63. Claims 21, 22, 27, 28, 37, 38, 44, 47-49, 53, 60, 61, and 63 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-63 under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-63 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 18, 20-22, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 18, 20-22, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by RD. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." MPEP § 2131 (*quoting Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). "The identical invention must be shown

in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.” *Id.* (quoting *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)). In addition, “the reference must be enabling and describe the applicant’s claimed invention sufficiently to have placed it in possession of a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention.” *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1475, 1479, 31 USPQ2d 1671, 1673 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to provide that “the airbag being constructed to be retained in a recess of an inner skin of a vehicle door.” Claims 5, 6, 8, 18, 20-22, 24 and 25 depend from claim 1 so also include this claim language. RD does not disclose this claim language. As shown in the Figures of RD, the airbag (1) of RD is attached to a protruding door structure (3) and thus, is not constructed to be retained in a recess of an inner skin of a vehicle door.

Additionally, claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 18, 20-22, 24 and 25 also provide that “the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” RD does not disclose mounting brackets. Instead, RD states that “an undeployed bladder (1) ...could be attached to either the door trim panel (2) or the door structure (3).” Because RD does not disclose each and every element of claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 18, 20-22, 24 and 25, RD does not anticipate claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 18, 20-22, 24 and 25. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 2-4, 12-15, 23, 26-28, and 31-41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD & Glance

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 12-15, 23, 26-28, and 31-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Glance. MPEP §2143 provides that a *prima facie* case of obviousness is established only if the Examiner shows that (1) there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation, either in the reference itself or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference; (2) there is a reasonable expectation of success; and (3) the prior art teaches or suggests all of the claim elements.

Claims 2-4, 12-15, and 23 depend from amended independent claim 1 so include all of the elements of claim 1. As discussed above, RD does not disclose all of the elements of

amended independent claim 1. Specifically, RD does not teach or suggest that the “the airbag being constructed to be retained in a recess of an inner skin of a vehicle door” or that “the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin” as provided in claims 2-4, 12-15, and 23.

Likewise, claims 26-28 and 31-41 provide that “the attachment mechanism is attached to the airbag and comprises one or more mounting brackets, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” Thus, RD does not teach or suggest each and every element of claims 26-28 and 31-41.

Similarly, Glance does not teach or suggest these elements of claims 2-4, 12-15, 23, 26-28, and 31-41. Instead, Glance teaches “an air pad body ... installed on the header or pillar 13 of the vehicle.” Glance col. 3, lines 62-64; *see also* col. 4, lines 14-20, lines 36-41, lines 52-57, lines 64-68; col. 5, lines 19-23, lines 24-26, lines 30-40, lines 53-55, lines 60-65. Thus, Glance does not teach or suggest that the airbag be constructed to be retained in a recess of an inner skin of a vehicle door.

Additionally, Glance does not teach or suggest an attachment mechanism attached to the airbag that comprises one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel. The Examiner in the Office Action on page 6 in paragraph 13 asserted that Glance teaches that “the air bag 12 is provided with brackets 33, 34 (Fig. 9) or heat-staked connectors 58, 59 (Fig. 16) for securing the air bag 12 to a vehicle structure 32, 57.” However, upon closer reading of Glance, Glance does not teach or suggest one or more mounting brackets as provided for in claims 2-4, 12-15, 23, 26-28, and 31-41. Specifically, Glance in column 4, lines 53-55 teaches that “the pad 31 is secured to the pillar 32 by the integrally-molded snap fastening clips 33 and 34.” Further, Glance in column 5, lines 37-40 teaches that “the inflatable structure 56 is shown [in Figure 16] mounted on the vehicle structure 57 with the snap-in projections 58 and 59 engaged in the appropriate openings in the vehicle structure 57.” Thus, Glance does not teach or suggest an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets.

Consequently, RD and Glance, singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 2-4, 12-15, 23, 26-28, and 31-41. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of

claims 2-4, 12-15, 23, 26-28, and 31-41 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 2-4, 12-15, 23, 26-28, and 31-41 is respectfully requested.

Additionally, claims 26-28 and 31-41 also provide that “the airbag is constructed to be retained in a vehicle door between an inner skin and a trim panel and positioned entirely below an armrest of the vehicle door.” In contrast, Glance teaches “an air pad body ... installed on the header or pillar 13 of the vehicle.” Glance col. 3, lines 62-64; *see also* col. 4, lines 14-20, lines 36-41, lines 52-57, lines 64-68; col. 5, lines 19-23, lines 24-26, lines 30-40, lines 53-55, lines 60-65. Thus, Glance does not teach or suggest an airbag is constructed to be retained in a vehicle door between an inner skin and a trim panel and positioned entirely below an armrest of the vehicle door. RD also does not teach or suggest an airbag positioned entirely below an armrest of the vehicle door. Instead, RD shows an airbag disposed behind the armrest of the vehicle door. Consequently, RD and Glance, singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 26-28 and 31-41.

Rejection of Claims 7, 52, 54, 57, 58, and 62 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD & Lebaudy

In the Office Action, claims 7, 52, 54, 57, 58, and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Lebaudy. Claim 7 depends from amended independent claim 1, and thus, provides that “the airbag being constructed to be retained in a recess of an inner skin of a vehicle door” and that “the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” Similarly, amended independent claim 52 provides that “the airbag being constructed to be retained in the recess of the vehicle door between the inner skin and the trim panel, wherein the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” Claims 54, 57, 58, and 62 depend from claim 52 so also include this claim language.

As noted above, RD does not teach or suggest this claim language. Similarly, Lebaudy does not teach or suggest this claim language. Further, the Examiner did not assert that Lebaudy

teaches or suggests these claim elements nor did the Examiner cite any portions of Lebaudy as teaching these claim elements. Likewise, Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion of these claim elements. Consequently, RD and Lebaudy do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 7, 52, 54, 57, 58, and 62. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claims 7, 52, 54, 57, 58, and 62 has not been established. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 7, 52, 54, 57, 58, and 62 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD & Dancasius

In the Office Action, claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Dancasius. Claims 9 and 10 depend from amended independent claim 1, and thus, include all of the elements of amended claim 1. Consequently, claims 9 and 10 provide that “the airbag being constructed to be retained in a recess of an inner skin of a vehicle door” and that “the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” As discussed above, RD does not teach or suggest these claim elements.

Similarly, Dancasius does not teach or suggest these claim elements. Instead, Dancasius teaches “an air bag device 22 [that] is mounted on one of the cross members 18 [of the vehicle door].” Additionally, the Examiner did not assert that Dancasius teaches or suggests these claim elements and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion of these claim elements. Consequently, RD and Dancasius do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 9 and 10. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claims 9 and 10 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 9 and 10 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD & Sakakida

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Sakakida. Claims 9 and 11 depend from amended independent claim 1, and thus, include all of the elements of amended claim 1. Consequently, claims 9 and 11 provide that “the airbag being constructed to be retained in a recess of an inner skin of a vehicle door” and that

“the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” As discussed above, RD does not teach or suggest these claim elements.

Similarly, Sakakida does not teach or suggest these claim elements. Additionally, the Examiner did not assert that Sakakida teaches or suggests these claim elements and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion of these claim elements. Consequently, RD and Sakakida do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 9 and 11. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claims 9 and 11 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 9 and 11 is respectfully requested.

Additionally, amended claims 9 and 11 provide that “a reaction beam is attached to the inner skin and supports the pelvic airbag.” The Examiner that Sakakida “teaches a door with a dampener 24 positioned between a reaction beam 22 and an air bag assembly 40.” However, as shown in the Figures of Sakakida, the reaction beam 22 does not support the pelvic air bag 40. Therefore, Sakakida does not teach or suggest this element of claims 9 and 11.

#### Rejection of Claims 13 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD & Spencer

Claims 13 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Spencer. Claims 13 and 15-17 depend from amended independent claim 1, and thus, include all of the elements of amended claim 1. Consequently, claims 13 and 15-17 provide that “the airbag being constructed to be retained in a recess of an inner skin of a vehicle door” and that “the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” As discussed above, RD does not teach or suggest these claim elements.

Similarly, Spencer does not teach or suggest these claim elements. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Spencer “teaches an airbag 36 that is secured to a vehicle using brackets 52, 54, 60, 62 and fasteners 56.” However, upon closer reading of Spencer, Spencer teaches that the elements 52, 54, 60, 62 are mounting tabs and not mounting brackets that span



the rear panel. *See* Spencer col. 2, lines 58-64 and col. 3, lines 8-11. Consequently, RD and Spencer do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 13 and 15-17. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claims 13 and 15-17 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 13 and 15-17 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD & Galbraith

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Galbraith. Claim 19 depends from amended independent claim 1, and thus, includes all of the elements of amended claim 1. Consequently, claim 19 provides that “the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” As discussed above, RD does not teach or suggest these claim elements.

Similarly, Galbraith does not teach or suggest these claim elements. Additionally, the Examiner did not assert that Galbraith teaches or suggests these claim elements and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion of these claim elements. Consequently, RD and Galbraith do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 19. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claim 19 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD, Glance, & Lebaudy

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Glance and in further view of Lebaudy. Claim 29 depends from amended independent claim 26, and thus, includes all of the elements of amended claim 26. Consequently, claim 26 provides that “the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” As discussed above, RD, Glance, and Lebaudy do not teach or suggest these claim elements. Consequently, RD, Glance, and Lebaudy do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 19. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of

claim 29 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Claim 29 also provides that “the airbag is constructed to be retained in a vehicle door between an inner skin and a trim panel and positioned entirely below an armrest of the vehicle door.” As discussed above, Glance and RD do not teach or suggest this claim language. Similarly, Lebaudy does not teach or suggest this claim language. Additionally, the Examiner did not assert that Lebaudy teaches or suggests these claim elements and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion of these claim elements. Consequently, RD, Glance, and Lebaudy do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 29.

Rejection of Claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD, Glance, & Sakakida

Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Glance in further view of Sakakida. Claim 30 provides “a reaction beam disposed to support the pelvic airbag.” In the Office Action, the Examiner noted on page 9, paragraph 20 that RD “and Glance [in] combination lacks a reaction beam.” As discussed above, the reaction beam 22 of Sakakida is not disposed to support the pelvic airbag. Therefore, RD, Glance, and Sakakida, singly or in combination do not teach or suggest all the elements of claim 30. Thus, the *prima facie* obviousness of claim 30 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claim 30 is respectfully requested

Rejection of Claims 42, 43, 45, 50, 51, & 55 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD, Lebaudy, & Dancasius

Claims 42, 43, 45, 50, 51, and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Lebaudy and in further view of Dancasius. Amended independent claim 42 recites “a reaction beam attached to the inner skin, wherein the reaction beam is disposed to support the pelvic airbag; and a rubber damper positioned between the reaction beam and an inflator housing.” Claims 43, 45, 50, and 51 depend from amended claim 42 and thus, also include this claim language.

The Examiner in the Office Action on page 9 in paragraph 20 noted that the RD and Lebaudy “combination lacks a reaction beam.” The Examiner then asserted that Dancasius teaches a “bowed reaction beam 18 supporting an air bag assembly 22.” However, the Examiner did not assert that RD, Lebaudy, or Dancasius teaches or suggests a rubber damper positioned between the reaction beam and an inflator housing and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion of these claim elements. Consequently, RD, Lebaudy, and Dancasius do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 42, 43, 45, 50, and 51. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claims 42, 43, 45, 50, and 51 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 42, 43, 45, 50, and 51 is respectfully requested.

Concerning claim 55, claim 55 depends from amended independent claim 52 and thus, includes all of the elements of claim 52. Therefore, claim 55 provides for “an attachment mechanism attached to the airbag and comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” As discussed above in reference to claim 1, RD, Lebaudy, and Dancasius do not teach or suggest these elements of claim 55. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claim 55 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claim 55 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 44 & 46-49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD, Lebaudy, Dancasius, & Glance

Claims 44 and 46-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Lebaudy and Dancasius and in further view of Glance. Amended independent claim 42 recites “a reaction beam attached to the inner skin, wherein the reaction beam is disposed to support the pelvic airbag; and a rubber damper positioned between the reaction beam and an inflator housing.” Claims 44 and 46-49 depend from amended claim 42 and thus, also include this claim language. As discussed above, RD, Lebaudy, and Dancasius do not teach or suggest these elements of claims 44 and 46-49.

Similarly, Glance does not disclose a reaction beam attached to the inner skin, wherein the reaction beam is disposed to support the pelvic airbag; and a rubber damper positioned between the reaction beam and an inflator housing. Additionally, the Examiner did not assert

that Glance teaches or suggests these claim elements and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion of these claim elements. Consequently, RD, Lebaudy, Dancasius, and Glance do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 44 and 46-49. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claims 44 and 46-49 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 44 and 46-49 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 53 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD, Lebaudy, & Glance

Claims 53 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Lebaudy and in further view of Glance. Claims 53 and 56 depend from amended independent claim 52 and thus, include all of the elements of claim 52. Therefore, claims 53 and 56 provide for “an attachment mechanism attached to the airbag and comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” As discussed above in reference to claim 1, RD, Lebaudy, and Glance do not teach or suggest these elements of claims 53 and 56. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claims 53 and 56 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 53 and 56 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 59-61 and 63 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by RD, Lebaudy, Heinz & Nishitake

Lastly, claims 59-61 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over RD in view of Lebaudy and in further view of Heinz and Nishitake. Claims 59-61 and 63 depend from amended independent claim 52 and thus, include all of the elements of claim 52. Therefore, claims 59-61 and 63 provide for “an attachment mechanism attached to the airbag and comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.” As discussed above in reference to claim 1, RD and Lebaudy do not teach or suggest these elements of claims 59-61 and 63.

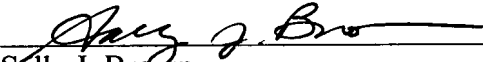
Similarly, Heinz and Nishitake do not teach or suggest a an attachment mechanism attached to the airbag and comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin. Additionally, the Examiner did not assert that Heinz or Nishitake teaches or

suggests these claim elements and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion of these claim elements. Consequently, RD, Lebaudy, Heinz, and Nishitake do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 44 and 46-49. Therefore, the *prima facie* obviousness of claims 44 and 46-49 has not been established. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection of claims 44 and 46-49 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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